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VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Oversight

September 10, 2007

Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

I am writing to thank you for your efforts to help southeastern Minnesota recover from the devastating rainfall and flash floods that occurred August 18th and 19th, 2007 and to urge you to take all possible steps to help the affected communities rebuild.

In the immediate aftermath of this disaster, you and I spent significant amounts of time in the flood-ravaged communities in southeastern Minnesota. We met people who lost their homes and their businesses literally overnight, and who are even now just beginning the long process of rebuilding their lives.

I have no doubt that the catastrophic damage and injuries that resulted from the floods would have been much worse had it not been for the quick and efficient response of state and local emergency relief crews. I applaud you and your administration for your role in that effort. Our local, state, and federal officials have worked hand-in-hand to respond to this disaster, and I have been pleased at the cooperation and coordination that has marked this response thus far.

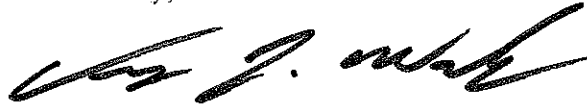
To continue this progress, I would strongly urge you to call the state legislature back to St. Paul for a special session at the earliest opportunity. As you know, the residents and local officials in the flooded areas are anxious to make plans and move forward, and it is difficult for them to make budgetary decisions without a clear message from the legislature about the nature and extent of the state's commitment to the recovery.

During past major floods, previous Governors have called the legislature back into session to address the crises; in 1997 and 2002, the legislature convened special sessions to address flood disasters in East Grand Forks and Roseau. With seven counties declared federal disaster areas, the scope of the current floods in southeastern Minnesota warrant a comparable response.

Governor Pawlenty, this summer's devastating floods have forced many residents and communities across southeastern Minnesota to face the challenge of rebuilding homes,

businesses, and lives. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that they have all the resources they need, and I believe that a special session convened as soon as possible would help provide them with that assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim J. Walz", with a stylized, cursive script.

Tim J. Walz
Member of Congress

Cc: State Senator Larry Pogemiller
State Senator David Senjem
State Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher
State Representative Marty Seifert